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## DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

*Austin, September 13th, 1862.*

The Election Returns received at the State Department are so defective that it is deemed necessary to give some special instructions and forms to govern the Chief Justices in ordering and conducting Elections, and making returns.

I. The returns for Governor and Lieutenant Governor are required to be sent to Austin, directed "To the Speaker of the House of Representatives."—(See Art. 650, Ollibam & White's Digest.)

II. The returns for State and District Officers are required to be made to the Secretary of State, and are not to be opened until after the expiration of sixty days from the time of the election.—(See Art. 651 & 652 of the Digest.)

III. The returns for members of Congress and for Electors of President and Vice President, are required to be made to the Secretary of State; the former cannot be opened until after the expiration of forty and the latter twenty-five days, from the day of election.—(See Acts of April 8th, 1861, page 44 & 45.)

IV. The returns for County Officers and Members of the Legislature are required to be made to the Secretary of State: for County Officers, the returns should specify how many were elected, and the date of qualification; for Senator, the number of votes cast for each candidate should be given, and so of the Representative; if the District is composed of more than one county, but if composed of but one county, the name of the person alone may be given.

V. The same returns need not include officers mentioned in any two of these Sections. The returns to this Department are to be directed to "The Secretary of State, Austin, Texas," and all the returns must be endorsed "Election Returns of . . . County for . . ." setting out the County and the officer. The returns should be made promptly; and if there is delay in the qualification of any County officer, the Chief Justice can make two returns. The christian name of the person elected should always be given, and the name written very legibly. Where Precinct Officers are elected, the number of those elected should also be given. In giving the number of votes, write it in words and figures.

VI. In making returns which are not to be opened immediately, you will also, at the same time, report to the Secretary (informally,) the result of said election. The law does not require this, but it is of importance to the public, as well as to the candidates, to be advised of the general result of elections; and this is more particularly the case in regard to the election of Governor, as the vote is counted only a few days before the inauguration.

VII. Whenever a State or District Officer, or Member of Congress, should depart this life in your County, or otherwise vacate his office, unknown to the Department, and whenever the office of Representative or Notary of the County becomes vacant, you will promptly notify the Secretary of State of the fact; and when returns are made of a Special Election to fill a vacancy in a County office, you will certify how and when the vacancy occurred.

VIII. You will cause these instructions and forms to be read at the minutes of your County Court, and it is hoped you will observe them strictly.

**R. J. TOWNES, Secretary of State.**



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